

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Glenn R. McClendon, III, et al.

Serial No. 09/923,362

Group Art Unit: 3627

Confirmation No. 8925

Filed: August 8, 2001

Examiner: Refai, Ramsey

For: POSTING LINES

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed September 16, 2009.

REMARKS

On pages 6-8 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner includes comments regarding Arguments A through F. These comments are largely directed to Heinemann.

Generally, the Examiner's comments are largely based on the Examiner's assertion that the information on the invoices in Heinemann are posting lines that are posted to a journal. Therefore, the difference between a posting line (as recited in various claims) and the information on invoices in Heinemann is addressed below.

Claim 23 specifically recites that each posting line includes a debit, a credit or a debit/credit pair relating to a respective amount included in information entered on a respective accounting line. Claim 23 also recites that selected posting lines are posted to a journal by a computer, to thereby create journal entries, and that the journal entries are posted to a ledger.

Therefore, as should be understood from claim 23, a posting line is a specific type of line used at a particular stage in the accounting process. This particular stage in the accounting process is after information is entered on an accounting line, and before being posted to a journal. For example, claim 23 specifically recites that "each posting line includes a debit, a credit or a debit/credit pair relating to a respective amount **included in information entered on a respective accounting line**". Examples of accounting lines and posting lines are shown, for example, in Examples 1, 2 and 3 on pages 10-11, of the specification. Claim 23 then recites that selected posting lines are posted to a journal. Therefore, the posting lines are used in the accounting process after information is entered on an accounting line, and before being posted to a journal.

The Examiner is correct in that Heinemann discloses invoices which include information. More specifically, Heinemann relates to viewing and correcting information on an invoice. However, the information that is viewed and corrected in Heinemann is similar to that which might be entered on an *accounting line*, **but not in a posting line**.

For example, as indicated in FIGS. 2-4 and column 3, lines 51-66, of Heinemann, a billing party 30 sends an invoice to a billable party 32. As indicated in column 4, lines 33-39, of Heinemann, a database 42 contains tables 44 that store the billable party's rules for testing invoices.

Further, as indicated in column 4, lines 40-43; and especially column 6, lines 42-52, of Heinemann, information in the invoice is stored electronically as an invoice data file created by *the billing party*. Therefore, it is clear that the invoice data file of Heinemann simply includes

information from the invoice and is created *by the billing party*, and would not include, for example, internal accounting codes *of the billable party*. Therefore, it can be seen that the invoice data file of Heinemann includes the type of information which might be entered on an *accounting line*, but not the information required on a **posting line**.

In summary, as recited in claim 23, a posting line is a specific type of line used at a particular stage in the accounting process after information is entered on an accounting line and before being posted to a journal. By contrast, Heinemann relates to viewing and correcting information on an invoice that might be entered on an *accounting line*, **but not in a posting line**.

It is respectfully submitted that many of the Examiner's arguments fail when the above described differences between the claimed positing lines and the information on the invoices of Heinemann are understood.

For example, claim 23 recites making corrections to posting lines. The Examiner correlates this recitation to the correction of information on an invoice in Heinemann. However, as indicated above, the information on an invoice in Heinemann is not a posting line, and any correction of the information on an invoice in Heinemann would take place at a different stage in the accounting process than the correction of posting lines as recited, for example, in claim 23.

In "Argument F" on page 9 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner asserts that the claim language is not limited to a particular stage in an accounting process. In response, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are clear in specifically reciting a particular stage. For example, claim 23 specifically recites that each posting line includes a debit, a credit or a debit/credit pair relating to a respective amount **included in information entered on a respective accounting line**, and that selected posting lines **are posted to a journal**. **Therefore, the posting lines are used in the accounting process after information is entered on an accounting line, and before being posted to a journal**. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner must consider these differences over Heinemann.

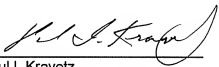
It is respectfully submitted that the above comments, in addition to the previously submitted comments in the Appeal Brief, are sufficient to reply to the comments in the Examiner's Answer. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that, generally, many of the Examiner's comments in the Examiner's Answer are of record from earlier in the case, so that the Appeal Brief includes appropriate comments for response. For the sake of brevity, the comments from the Appeal Brief will not be resubmitted here.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 16, 2009

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